

EducationUSA Canada University Spotlight

California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo

Outside of college lectures and doing homework, being close to California's beaches and state parks is a perfect way to spend your study abroad experience in the United States. [California Polytechnic State University](#) ("Cal Poly") combines rigorous academics with an enriching student experience, and offers [64 baccalaureate and 31 Master's degrees](#). The university [is ranked 9th](#) for colleges and universities whose highest degree is a Master's in the Western United States. Cal Poly's educational philosophy of "learn by doing" encourages students to resolve problems by incorporating classroom theory with experiential laboratory exercises. It is an opportunity to learn at this vibrant campus, which is the second largest land-holding campus university in California. [Cal Poly Quick Facts](#).

"I really loved my experience down there. I think first I was lucky because I was in California. The temperature was really cool, and I could play tennis by the ocean. I thought studying in the United States would be really hard. It was hard, but it was definitely accessible," says Nicolas Pelletier. Nicolas, who hails from Gatineau, Québec, participated in an exchange program at Cal Poly, where he studied mass media law and American politics. You can watch a [video of Nicolas](#) talking about his experience and sharing advice for other Canadians seeking to study in the United States.

Location:
San Luis Obispo, CA

Established 1901

Public University

"Learn by Doing"



Cal Poly Academics

The “learn by doing” philosophy at Cal Poly emphasizes expanded lab and field work. All undergraduate students are required to complete a [senior project](#), which integrates theory and application from across the student’s undergraduate educational experiences. Some of the most popular academic programs include [civil engineering](#), [aerospace engineering](#), [business administration](#), [agriculture](#), [biological](#) and [biomedical sciences](#).

Cal Poly alumni include U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. [Victor Glover](#), a Cal Poly engineering alumnus who was one of eight people named to NASA’s 21st astronaut candidate class in 2013. In 2011, Paige Wopschal was awarded a highly competitive [Fulbright English Teaching](#) assistantship to teach in Bulgaria – see [Cal Poly’s Academic Honors](#).



Important Information for Canadian Students

Visit Cal Poly's [Financial Aid Office](#) (email: financialaid@calpoly.edu; tel: 805-756-2927) for detailed information about obtaining funding for your studies at the university. International students do qualify for a percentage of financial aid programs such as the [athletic program grants-in-aid](#) or the [institutional scholarships](#). You can also check out the [estimated cost of attending](#).

A minimum TOEFL iBT score of 80 or IELTS score of 7 is required for international students whose native language is not English. "Undergraduate applicants may be eligible for a waiver of TOEFL or IELTS if they have been educated for a minimum of three years at an institution whose language of instruction is English," according to Cal Poly Admissions. Other exemptions may apply. [Read more about admissions language requirements](#) or contact Cal Poly's [International Center](#) (email: international@calpoly.edu; tel: 805-756-1477).

Make sure to keep in mind important [admission dates and deadlines](#) and learn more about [applying to Cal Poly as a Canadian student](#) for [undergraduate admissions](#) and [graduate admissions](#). You can also check out the [frequently asked questions](#) for admissions-related information.



Cal Poly's sunny campus in San Luis Obispo, California. *Photo by Nicolas Pelletier*